REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Allowance of Claims 14-28

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 14-28. No limitation on the scope of these claims should be inferred from the arguments below since these claims have already been indicated as being allowable.

Conditionally Allowed Claims 2-6

Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the conditional allowance of claims 2-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim, and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, new claims 32-38 have been added which are based on the following conditionally allowed claims:

new independent claim 32 - claim 1 and conditionally allowed claim 2;
new dependent claim 33 - conditionally allowed claim 3;
new dependent claim 34 - conditionally allowed claim 4;
new dependent claim 35 - conditionally allowed claim 6;

new independent claim 36 - claim 1 and conditionally allowed claim 4;
new dependent claim 37 - conditionally allowed claim 5; and
new dependent claim 38 - conditionally allowed claim 6.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 32-38 are now in condition for allowance. No limitation on the scope of these new claims should be inferred from the arguments below since these claims have already been indicated as having allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections of Claim 1

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by either Estvanko (U.S. Patent No. 6,058,852) or Locker (U.S. Patent No. 5,676,065). Applicants respectfully, but most strenuously, traverse this anticipation rejection for the following reasons.

With reference to the first applied reference, Estvanko discloses an equipment skid for moving and transporting heavy loads, and in particular for moving and transporting electric generators which can weigh 2,500 to 14,000 pounds. Tie-down arms are provided for fastening skid structures together and/or fastening the skid to the walls and floor of a transporting vehicle.

With reference to the second applied reference, Locker discloses a flatrack or load-carrying pallet that can be transported on vehicles. The flatrack include a base or flat load-bearing surface for supporting items to be transported.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite a skid for use in a modular system for monitoring a hydrogen-cooled generator in which the skid includes a platform, a support, and "means for attaching said support to a plurality of modules for monitoring the hydrogen-cooled generator." The "means-plus-function" language imparts patentability to the claim, i.e., imparts a limitation which is to be given patentable weight.

When asserting a §102 rejection, it is well established that there is no anticipation unless (1) all the same elements are (2) found in exactly the same situation and (3) are united in the same way to (4) perform the identical function.

As noted above, neither Estvanko nor Locker discloses features for attaching the skid or flatrack, respectively, to a plurality of modules for monitoring a hydrogen-cooled generator. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that neither Estvanko nor Locker anticipate a skid for use in a modular system for monitoring a hydrogen-cooled generator as now recited in amended claim 1 and depending claims 2 and 6. Withdrawal to this anticipation rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection of Claims 7-13 and 29-31

In the Office Action, claims 7-13 and 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Gonzalez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,698,756). Applicants respectfully, but most strenuously, traverse this anticipation rejection for the following reasons.

With reference to independent claim 7, another aspect of applicants' invention is monitoring the "performance" of a hydrogen-cooled generator. Operating away from a design point of the hydrogen-cooled generator results in less that 100-percent efficiency. For example, a module connectable to a modular system for monitoring a hydrogen-cooled generator may generate an optimization factor or "data regarding the performance of the hydrogen-cooled generator." This may be implemented by suitable programming or algorithms run on a suitable processor or microcontroller of the gas/generator monitoring module for calculating, for example, an optimization factor based on various variables and weightings which may be specified by the end user or generator manufacturer.

For example, an optimization factor between 90-percent and 100-percent efficiency may be selected as being acceptable. A display may show the specific percentage or, the words "acceptable" or "not acceptable", or the words "good", "fair", or "poor." The optimization factor or data regarding the performance of the hydrogen-cooled generator can be displayed locally on the gas/generator monitoring module, and/or transferred via the communications link.

With reference to Gonzalez et al., Gonzalez et al. discloses a diagnostic system for monitoring conditions of an electrical generator winding and determining a degree of confidence associate with such conditions. The electrical generator winding has a first and second passages for conduction of cooling gas. The temperature of the gas exiting the passages is determined and converted to a normalized value which may be either high, low or normal. A diagnostic computer determines the existence of predetermined combinations of high, low or normal for the two readings and these predetermined combinations are utilized by a computer to generates respective confidence factors in the existence of certain abnormal generator conditions such as open conductors, broken or blocked cooling gas passages, and sensor malfunctions, by way of example. Gonzalez et al. also discloses a radio frequency monitor and a generator condition monitor.

As noted above, when asserting a §102 rejection, it is well established that there is no anticipation unless (1) all the same elements are (2) found in exactly the same situation and (3) are united in the same way to (4) perform the identical function.

Gonzalez et al. fail to disclose the same elements or function for a module connectable to a modular system for monitoring a hydrogen-cooled generator as recited in independent claim 7. In particular, Gonzalez et al. disclose, for example, obtaining diagnostic data regarding discrete conditions of the windings of an electrical generator (and the confidence value regarding those values). More importantly, Gonzalez et al. fail to disclose using the discrete conditions of the windings of an electrical generator to generate data regarding the "performance" of the hydrogen-cooled generator such as an optimization factor of the operating efficiency of the generator. In addition, Gonzalez et al. fail to disclose a module comprising a processor for generating "data associated with performance of the hydrogen-cooled generator" and "at least one of a display for displaying said data and a communications link for transferring said data to a remote location", as recited in independent claim 7.

Accordingly, Gonzalez et al. do not disclose the same elements, or perform an identical function as in this aspect of applicants' invention, and thus, Gonzalez et al. would not have anticipated applicants' invention as recited in independent claim 7. Dependent claims 8-13 are believed allowable for the same reasons noted above in connection with amended independent claim 7 from which they directly or ultimately depend, as well as for their own additional features. For the same reasons, claim 30 is patentable over Gonzalez et al.

With regard to independent claim 29, another aspect of applicants' invention is for a method for monitoring a hydrogen-cooled generator using a modular system. In particular, claim 29 has been amended to recite a method for use in monitoring a hydrogen-cooled generator in which the method includes providing a modular system for at least one of "determining gas purity of hydrogen gas in the hydrogen-cooled generator, and drying of hydrogen gas in the hydrogen-cooled generator."

Gonzalez et al. fail to disclose the same elements or function for a method for use in monitoring a hydrogen-cooled generator recited in independent claim 29. In particular, Gonzalez et al., which is directed to monitoring windings of an electrical generator, fail to disclose either "determining gas purity of hydrogen gas in the hydrogen-cooled generator" or "drying of hydrogen gas in the hydrogen-cooled generator." Accordingly, Gonzalez et al. do not disclose the same elements, or perform an identical function as in this aspect of applicants' invention, and thus, Gonzalez et al. would not have anticipated applicants' invention as recited in independent claim 29, and dependent claims 30 and 31, and new dependent claims 39 and 40.

Official Fees

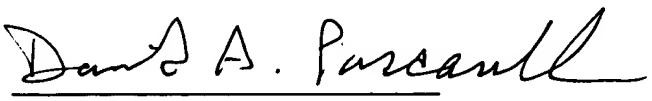
In this response, 9 new claims have been added (2 of which being independent claims). Accordingly, a check in the amount of $338 (large entity) is enclosed herewith for the official fee associated with the 9 additional new claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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